

From the Upper Chamber



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Report for Thursday, March 16, 2006

The thirty-third day of the 2006 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Mark Taylor**.

Senator **Don Balfour** of the 9th stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Sen. **John Douglas** of the 17th moved to reconsider SR 1189, which commends Ms. **Jane Fonda**. He took the well to speak against the resolution, claiming **Fonda** is undeserving of the honor.

Sen. **Steen Miles** of the 43rd took the well to address Sen. **Douglas**' motion to reconsider. Sen. **Miles** moved to withdraw SR 1189, but said she feels **Fonda** is still deserving of the honor for her work with the Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (G-CAPP).

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** stated that the motion to reconsider must be voted upon since SR 1189 was adopted yesterday by unanimous consent. Sen. **Preston Smith** of the 52nd moved for a yeas and nays vote.

The motion to reconsider SR 1189 was approved by a vote of 48 to 1. The resolution was moved to the foot of today's calendar.

SR 1200, and House Bills 1600, 1603, 1608 and 1609 were read for the first time and assigned to their respective Committees.

The Secretary read the reports of Standing Committees and second reading of Senate Bills and Resolutions.

Sen. **Greg Goggans** of the 7th took the rostrum to introduce the *Doctor of the Day*, Dr. **Tom Davis** of Blackshear. Dr. **Davis** is also the mayor of Blackshear.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** then recognized Sen. **Bill Heath** of the 31st, who led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sen. **Heath** then introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Dr. **Jim Howell** of Powder Springs First United Methodist Church, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

The morning roll call was taken.

Sen. **John Wiles** of the 37th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to ask Senators to make every effort to pass the House's local legislation.

SR 1198, 1199 and 1201-1204 were read and adopted.

The Local Consent Calendar, consisting of SB 664, SR 871 and HB 1375, 1474 and 1557, passed by a vote of 41 to 0.

The Secretary read SR 1192, which recognizes March 16, 2006, as Columbus Day at the Capitol. Senators **Seth Harp** of the 29th and **Ed Harbison** of the 15th took the rostrum to welcome representatives of the local Columbus delegation.

The Secretary read HB 989, which changes certain provisions concerning clerks of superior courts with regard to sunset dates. Sen. **Casey Cagle** of the 49th took the well to present the bill, and to urge its passage.

HB 989 passed by a vote of 42 to 0.

The Secretary read HB 1055, which provides for the adoption and implementation of Internet safety policies in public schools. Sen. **John Bulloch** of the 11th took the well to present the bill, and to urge its passage.

HB 1055 passed by a vote of 45 to 0.

HB 749 was read, which provides for creditable service in the Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund for certain active military duty. Sen. **Horacena Tate** of the 38th took the well to present the bill, and to urge its passage.

HB 749 passed by a vote of 46 to 0.

The Secretary read SR 867, which recognizes Deputy **Patrick Neal** as winner of the Peace Officer of the Year award for valor. Sens. **Jack Hill** of the 4th, **Bill Stephens** of the 27th and others took the rostrum to honor Deputy **Neal** for his heroism.

Sen. **Heath** took the well to recognize representatives of the Georgia Wing Civil Air Patrol present in the Senate gallery.

The Secretary read HB 999, which changes certain provisions relating to the practice of veterinary technology by veterinary technicians. Sen. **Bulloch** took the well to present the bill, which makes changes to the Veterinary Practice Act.

HB 999 passed by a vote of 44 to 0.

The Secretary read HR 1834, which is relative to the adjournment of the General Assembly. Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th took the well to discuss the upcoming Senate schedule. HR 1834 was subsequently adopted.

HB 1151 was read, which relates to deferred compensation plans, so as to provide that the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System shall be the successor to the Employee Benefit Council for the purpose of administering certain deferred compensation plans. Sen. **Chip Rogers** of the 21st took the well to present the bill, and to urge its passage.

HB 1151 passed by a vote of 45 to 0.

The Secretary read HB 251, which designates the eligible surviving beneficiaries for the Judges of the Probate Courts Retirement Fund. Sen. **Heath** took the well to explain the Committee Substitute.

The Committee Substitute to HB 251 was adopted by a vote of 37 to 0.

HB 251 passed by substitute by a vote of 48 to 0.

HB 809 was read, which amends the eligibility requirements for the Superior Court Clerks' Retirement Fund. Sen. **Johnny Grant** of the 25th took the well to present the bill, and to urge its passage.

HB 809 passed by a vote of 43 to 0.

The Secretary read HB 1042, which relates to annual accounting periods, so as to provide for treatment of 52-53 week taxable years. Sen. **Cagle** took the well to explain the bill.

HB 1042 passed by a vote of 47 to 0.

President Pro Tempore **Eric Johnson** of the 1st took the gavel to preside over the Senate.

HB 912 was read, which relates to the production of documents with regard to civil litigation practice. Sen. **Smith** took the well to explain the Committee Substitute.

The Committee Substitute to HB 912 was adopted by a vote of 30 to 0.

Sen. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12th asked to be excused from the vote, and there was no objection.

HB 912 passed by substitute by a vote of 42 to 0.

The Secretary read SR 1180, which recognizes NASCAR/Atlanta Motor Speedway Day at the Capitol. SR 1184 and 1197 were also read. Majority Leader **Williams** and other senators took the rostrum to recognize the participants in Atlanta Motor Speedway Day, including several professional drivers.

The Secretary read SR 1189, which commends Ms. **Jane Fonda**. Sen. **Miles** moved to withdraw SR 1189, and Sen. **Mitch Seabaugh** of the 28th objected to the motion.

The motion to withdraw SR 1189 was defeated by vote of 15 to 28.

SR 1189 failed after reconsideration by a vote of 1 to 38.

After the announcements, Majority Leader **Williams** moved that the Senate stand adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Monday, March 20.

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